



**NCVCCO**

# Achievement Report

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations

**2008**

**Children  
England**  
Charities working for  
children and families

# Our Goals

## Goal 1

To represent the sector and increase its influence on policy and service development, promoting its values and principles to achieve better outcomes for all children, young people and families.

## Goal 2

To increase the number and diversity of members, improve the service we offer and promote the benefits of membership across the sector.

## Goal 3

To expand and develop our regional activities, building voice, support and influence for the children and families' voluntary sector at regional and local levels.

## Goal 4

To achieve and demonstrate the highest possible standards of governance, promote these to the membership and increase the involvement of members in decision making within NCVCCO.

## Goal 5

To grow NCVCCO as a dynamic, visible and effective organisation that is able to respond to the key challenges facing the sector in a sustainable and flexible manner.

## Top Five Achievements

- 1 Producing a handbook to improve the way government consults the sector, in partnership with the Office of the Third Sector.
- 2 Publishing *Every Organisation Matters*, in partnership with NCVYS, the first ever mapping of the sector.
- 3 Securing ongoing funding for Regional Development Managers, extending development support to organisations and networks in every region.
- 4 The *Governing for Children* guide and conference, raising the profile of good governance in the children, young people and families' voluntary sector.
- 5 A new name and logo to increase our visibility and effectiveness in championing the sector.

# Introduction



This has been a year of great change for NCVCCO and many of our members. Change can be scary as well as exhilarating and we have had our fair share of both. We have said goodbye to some long standing members who have done fantastic work in communities with children, young people and families but have fallen victim to the competitive tendering system. Many more organisations are considering mergers and partnerships to increase their capacity to bid for tenders and reduce the associated risks. In addition, the environment in which members are working is set to become more challenging in the year ahead with the likelihood of fewer resources from all funding streams at a time of increasing need, particularly within already disadvantaged communities.

But without exception, members are facing these challenges with the needs of children, young people and families at the forefront of their plans and activities. We remain hugely proud, and at times in awe, of the dedication and commitment members have to the children, young people and families they serve, and the ways they are able to extract the maximum value for front line services from their often stretched resources. This willingness to embrace change, innovate and develop a flexible response lies at the heart of the longevity of the sector and its outstanding contribution to children's lives over two centuries of massive social change. On 2nd December 2008 NCVCCO officially became Children England.

Our new name is a reflection of the need to build on the forward thinking of our members, positioning ourselves to reach out to an increasing number of voluntary organisations. We aim to offer increasing practical support and wider networks to others who share our vision of a better world for children and young people. This is a time for all those in the voluntary sector who are dedicated to the wellbeing of children and young people to stand together, safeguarding the gains made in the past few years and pressing for greater progress on tackling poverty, challenging discrimination and giving all children and young people the start in life they deserve.

Children England provides a fresh and more visible platform for the collective voice of the sector, campaigning for change nationally and delivering the services that create real change on the ground. We remain rooted in the values and principles which have inspired our sector to achieve so much; a rock solid belief in the intrinsic worth of each child and young person, a determination to secure their rights and a passion for the transformational power of voluntary endeavour in building better communities.

**Bob Reitemeier**  
Chair

**Maggie Jones**  
Chief Executive



Charities working for children and families

## Goal 1



# Representation

### THIS YEAR WE SAID WE WOULD:

- Develop new routes to hear the views of smaller organisations and ensure they are heard by Government.
- Improve support to NCVCCO representatives at a national and regional level increasing accountability and linking representatives.
- Initiate high profile media and communications activity to promote the collective voice of the sector on key themes agreed with members.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

We secured significant political and media attention for our research report, **Under the Radar**, which highlighted the challenges facing small voluntary and community sector organisations. Following publication of the report we met with Ministers from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government, influencing their work on commissioning, community empowerment and public services.

We continue to represent the sector on a wide range of government, statutory and voluntary bodies, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families Ministerial Board of Stakeholders, the Expert Working Group on Workforce Development, the Criminal Records Bureau VCS Advisory Group and the Community Sector Partnership for Children and Young People.

We developed a protocol and support framework to enable representatives to share and feed back their work more effectively.

The Speaking Out project, which aims to get the voice of the children and young people's voluntary sector

heard across government, has held a number of successful events for members and policymakers and responded to key government consultations.

We gained substantial media coverage on key issues, including the impact of the ending of the Children's Fund, safeguarding, youth justice and governance.

We published a research report and handbook, jointly with the Office of the Third Sector, to support best practice on consultation with the third sector across local and national government.

### ...AND SO

The experience and insights of the sector have influenced government departments and other decision makers whose work affects the sector.

The profile of the sector has been raised in new forums and we are better able to inform members of the latest policy development.

Government is better able to seek third sector views in appropriate ways on the issues which affect their work.

Local and central government realise the particular challenges faced by small organisations and the vital part they play in improving the lives of children and families.

### WHAT NEXT...

#### In 2009 we will:

- Increase the transparency of representation through web based reporting.
- Evaluate the impact of representational activity, producing a report early in 2009.
- Undertake research to highlight and influence the way services are commissioned from the sector.

“ NCVCCO are able to offer a unique perspective as they represent such a wide range of children's charities, including smaller organisations who may otherwise not be heard. I was especially pleased to be able to work together on our survey into Children's Fund arrangements, which showed that funding for the voluntary sector was coming under threat and that children could miss out on vital services as a result. ”

**Ruth Smith**

*News Editor, Children and Young People Now*

# Membership

## Goal 2

### THIS YEAR WE SAID WE WOULD:

- Offer online routes for member consultations and discussions.
- Set up two-way communication routes for staff within member organisations with responsibility for particular service and policy areas to share views and ideas.
- Appoint a Membership Officer to help us achieve our longer term aim of doubling membership by 2011.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

A Membership Officer was appointed in April to take forward work supporting existing members and recruiting new ones.

An online survey of members' information needs was carried out which influenced the development of new information and policy products to better meet members' needs.

E-mail working groups have been established on early years, social work and other workforce issues enabling more members to share practice and influence the Children's Workforce Development Councils' priorities.

Block membership of Research in Practice was negotiated, providing free access for small and medium members to the most comprehensive online research and practice resource on children's services in the country.

Online consultations and discussions have been delayed pending development of the new website.

### ...AND SO

Members have a clear first point of contact with NCVCCO and a quicker response to their queries.

Members are better informed and able to access research and information about best practice on a wide range of services and new developments as and when they need it.

A wider range of organisations from across the country are able to influence workforce development and learn from each other.

### WHAT NEXT...

#### In 2009 we will:

- Increase the membership by a minimum of 25%.
- Produce a guide to commissioning for small and medium sized organisations and deliver targeted training on contracting.
- Introduce a new members' briefing publication and develop new ways for members to influence and contribute to our policy work.
- Develop a dedicated support service for the sector on workforce development.

“ Your conference on volunteering was the first that I had attended in my role as volunteer coordinator. The welcome I received was personal and professional and the conference was well organised with interesting speakers. Thank you for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day and I look forward to more great events in 2009. ”

**Gloria Stoll**  
Norwood



## Goal 3



“ This is an important moment for the children’s charity sector in England – the pace of change in government initiatives and for our council and health colleagues is unrelenting, no more so than in London. The children’s charity sector needs to be fitter for purpose and ensure the voice of the sector is heard. NCVCCO’s transformation into Children England signals the importance of the moment. ”

*Delroy Pomell  
Barnardo’s*

# Regions

### THIS YEAR WE SAID WE WOULD:

- Organise at least 6 regional events to enable children and young people to speak directly to decision makers in their region.
- Raise the profile of Regional Groups on the website, in NCVCCO publications and with Government Offices in the regions.
- Hold a minimum of 9 regional networking and learning events.
- Map and link other networks supporting the sector in each region.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

We were successful in securing ongoing funding for 9 part time Regional Development Managers to continue their work supporting organisations, building regional networks and making links with local infrastructure bodies.

Our Regional Groups organised 32 meetings involving 261 VCS staff. In addition 16 conferences and training events were held in partnership with local government, the Independent Safeguarding Authority and Regional Government Offices, involving 634 VCS staff.

2 events were held to enable the views of children and young people to be heard directly by decision makers in the regions, on mental health and homelessness. We are committed to holding the other 4 in 2009, alongside 2 additional events.

Together with NCVYS we published **Every Organisation Matters**, the first ever national mapping of the sector which revealed that a third of all VCS organisations work with children, young people and families. We secured commitments from two Government departments to progress this work.

### ...AND SO

Regional and local authority decision makers are listening to the voice of the sector with stronger networks and representational structures being built at local level.

Organisations are more skilled and confident in delivering high quality services and aware of new developments that affect their work with children.

Government is now more aware of the scale, spread and impact of the sector’s work in communities improving the lives of children, young people and families.

### WHAT NEXT...

#### In 2009 we will:

- Improve and extend work in the South East and South West regions where networks are weakest.
- Hold 6 events to bring the views of children and young people to decision makers in the regions.
- Develop new web pages for each region to improve visibility and information sharing.
- Extend work on safeguarding and workforce development across the regions.

# Governance

## Goal 4

### THIS YEAR WE SAID WE WOULD:

- Create a Governance section of the website, publish the results of our Governance Review and make the resulting policies and paper available to members.
- Hold a high profile event on Governance for the children, young people and families voluntary sector.
- Take action to improve diversity and regional representation at board level.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

We held a national conference on Governance in Birmingham attracting over 80 staff and trustees from across the sector, with speakers and workshops addressing safeguarding, risk management, recruiting trustees, the use of the Compact and what funders look for in well governed organisations.

**Governing for Children**, a beginners guide for trustees and staff, was published in October and well received with 2000 copies distributed free of charge and additional free downloads made available on the website.

We implemented a new trustee appraisal system for the NCVCCO board and honorary officers, routes for regional groups to feed into decision making and revised our policies and protocols on conflict resolution, delegation of authority and promoting diversity.

### ...AND SO

Our members and colleagues in the wider sector are better informed about standards of good governance, where to go for further help and new responsibilities on risk and safeguarding.

The NCVCCO board is demonstrating the highest standards of governance to the sector and leading by example.

The army of willing volunteers who give their time energy and expertise as trustees has been recognised, publically valued and supported in the vital job they do for the sector.

### WHAT NEXT...

#### In 2009 we will:

- Complete the Governance Action Plan by establishing a Diversity working group to undertake a review of diversity and governance across the sector.
- Produce a policy on data protection and provide information on the governance implications for members.
- Undertake a comprehensive policy review, sharing the results with members.

“ Congratulations on an excellent governance conference. I found myself engaged by the speakers and the workshops and thought the planning of the conference was highly professional and the day well paced. ”

**John Kemmis**  
Chief Executive, Voice



## Goal 5



# Fit for Purpose

### THIS YEAR WE SAID WE WOULD:

- Build a strong relationship with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and build a single voice with regard to the new Vetting and Barring Scheme.
- Develop improved evaluation and monitoring systems and support members in evaluating their contribution to the Every Child Matters outcomes.
- Extend our policy and information work, providing members with a wider range of policy briefings and raising the profile of the sector.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

Following consultation with members we have developed a stronger organisational identity, with the renaming of NCVCCO as Children England and the introduction of a new logo.

A successful consultation event was held with members on the ISA scheme to inform our response to the Government's proposals. We have been in regular contact with the ISA and are members of the ISA Volunteer Consultative Group.

We ran 3 training events on building a sustainable future for development workers, three on Local Area Agreements for small organisations and produced a Why? sheet on evaluation. An external evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of all NCVCCO's work has been commissioned.

We held a national conference, **Two way contributions – organisations and their volunteers working for children**, to highlight the importance of the volunteer workforce. 106 delegates heard high profile speakers and developed proposals for improved support for volunteers which have influenced the emerging CWDC strategy.

### ...AND SO

We have a new, improved name and stronger identity which provides an excellent platform from which to promote our members and their work.

The sector will continue to have a major role in keeping children and young people safe, and influencing the work of the ISA.

The profile and importance of volunteers as a vital part of the workforce for children, young people and families is high on the agenda of those responsible for workforce reform.

### WHAT NEXT...

#### In 2009 we will:

- Launch a new website which will include a members-only area with a wider range of downloadable information and links to other useful sites.
- Use our re-brand to raise the profile of Children England and the sector we serve.
- Diversify our funding base with a minimum of two new grants/contracts.
- Undertake an options review of income generating products and services.

“ Thank you for....bringing to my attention the recent NCVCCO publications. I have found them very useful to highlight the important role of smaller, voluntary and community organisations in delivering the Every Child Matters agenda. I have asked the officials responsible for third sector engagement to circulate this publication to other policy colleagues and to ensure that a web link to both booklets will be set up on the ECM website. ”

**Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP**

*Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families*

# Income & Expenditure

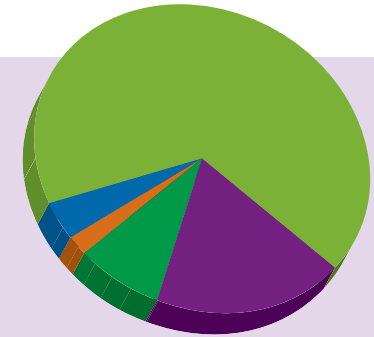
## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2008

	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	
Tangible assets	89,471
Investments	92,605
<b>Current assets</b>	
Debtors	82,514
Investments-short term deposits	351,684
Cash at bank and in hand	10,575
	<u>444,773</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(74,888)
Net current assets	369,885
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>551,961</b>
Fund balances	
Restricted funds	23,857
Unrestricted: Designated funds	284,541
Other funds	243,563
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>551,961</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st March 2008

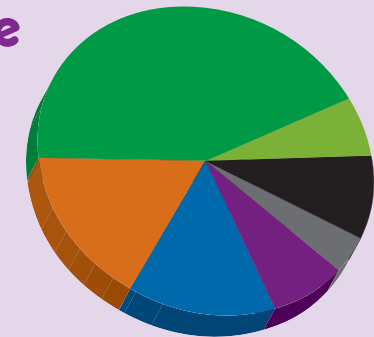
	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	
Incoming resources from generated funds	
Voluntary Income	996,814
Subscriptions	89,783
Investment Income	28,303
Incoming resources from charitable activities	
Representation	13,100
Membership	4,181
Regions	11,745
Fit for Purpose	14,292
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>1,158,218</b>
Resources Expended	
Costs of generating Funds	
Project Planning and Funding	100,686
Charitable Activities	1,085,418
Governance Costs	51,518
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>1,237,622</b>
<b>Net Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(74,404)</b>

## Income 07/08



● 67%	<b>Government Grants</b>	£781,421
● 19%	<b>Other Grants</b>	£215,393
● 8%	<b>Subscriptions</b>	£89,783
● 2%	<b>Investment Income</b>	£28,303
● 4%	<b>Charitable Activities</b>	£43,318
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,158,218</b>

## Expenditure 07/08



● 8%	<b>Generating Funds</b>	£100,686
● 14%	<b>Charitable Activities</b>	£174,964
● 16%	<b>Representation</b>	£199,270
● 43%	<b>Regions</b>	£531,794
● 6%	<b>Governance</b>	£71,574
● 9%	<b>Fit for Purpose</b>	£107,816
● 4%	<b>Governance Costs</b>	£51,518
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,237,622</b>

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out above.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements within the summarised Annual Report with the full annual financial statements and its compliance with the relevant requirements of the charities SORP.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

### Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 "The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Annual Report of the National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations for the year ended 31 March 2008 and complies with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

### BAKER TILLY UK AUDIT LLP

Chartered Accountants  
1st Floor, 46 Clarendon Road  
Watford, Herts WD17 1JJ

We confirm that the above financial statements are not statutory accounts, but a summary of information relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. The above financial statements are extracted from the full financial audited statements, which contain an unqualified report by the auditors, Baker Tilly Chartered Accountants.

and held 5 events including a major national conference.....

# Acknowledgements

## Thanks

Our grateful thanks and appreciation go to the children and young people of Howgill Family Centre and The Together Trust whose wonderful art work decorates our walls, some of which has been used to illustrate this report.

In addition, we are very grateful to the Chairs of our 9 regional groups and Linkworkers, who give time, energy, skill and enthusiasm to ensure that the voluntary sector is well positioned to influence the regional and local priorities for children and their families.

## Supporters

Our sincere thanks also go to our funders, not only for the resources they provide but also for the understanding and support they give to our work: The Big Lottery Fund, Cabinet Office (Office of the Third Sector), CWDC Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), The Governance Hub.

## Trustees

Bob Reitemeier ( <i>Chair</i> )	The Children's Society
Russell Norman ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	Howgill Family Centre
Helen Hibbert ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> )	Partnership for Young London
Liz Bayram	NCMA
Norma Brier	Norwood
Elaine Clowes	Children's Links
Philippa Gitlin	Independent
Tim Jeffery	Spurgeons
John Kemmis	Voice
Dame Mary Marsh	NSPCC
Sue Pettigrew	St Michael's Fellowship
Jim Richards	Catholic Children's Society Westminster
Leigh Vallance	Break
Keith White	Mill Grove

## Staff

Shirley Anuku	Administrative Assistant ( <i>from Feb 2008</i> )
Natalie Ashwood	Membership Officer ( <i>from April 2008</i> )
Mubeen Bhutta	Information and Policy Manager ( <i>to Sept 2008</i> )
John Butler	Project Assistant ( <i>to Sept 2008</i> )
Lisa Byrne	Director, Finance and Administration
Christine Daly	Volunteer Consultant
Sophie Griffiths	Policy and Information Officer ( <i>from Feb 2008</i> )
John Handley	Volunteer Consultant
Tony Hatwell	Administrative Assistant
Elaine James	CEO PA/Office Manager
Maggie Jones	Chief Executive
Joe Levenson	Director, Policy and Communications
David Marsh	Director, Workforce and Programme Development ( <i>from Aug 2008</i> )
Kirstie Newson	Regional Coordinator ( <i>to Sept 2008</i> )
Jordan Thompson	Small Orgs Development Officer
Sally Weeks	Workforce Development Manager ( <i>to Sept 2008</i> )
Emilie Whitaker	Policy and Information Officer ( <i>from Nov 2008</i> )
Felicity White	Temporary Administrative Assistant ( <i>Sept – Dec 2008</i> )

## VCS Engage Regional Development Managers

Tony Benjamin	South West
Kevin Garrod	Eastern Region
Alice James	East Midlands
Sharon Long	London
Daniel Moore	South West
Kerstin Neason	South West
Dave Packwood	North West
Karen Parsons	East Midlands
Alison Straker	West Midlands
Jean Watkins	South East
Cal Williams	West Midlands
Ivan Wintringham	North East
Lesley Woods	Yorkshire & Humberside

# Member organisations

- ACT, Association for Children's Palliative Care
- Action for Children
- Adoption Matters North West
- After Adoption
- ATD Fourth World
- Barnardo's
- BREAK
- British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF)
- Browning House Family Assessment Centre
- Catholic Caring Services Catholic Children's Society (Nottingham)
- Catholic Children's Rescue Society
- Catholic Children's Society (Brentwood)
- Catholic Children's Society (Clifton) CCS Adoption
- Catholic Children's Society (Southwark)
- Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)
- Charterhouse Group
- Childhood First
- Children – North East
- Children's Country Holidays Fund
- Children's Family Trust
- Children's Links
- Children's Society, The
- Christian Family Concern
- Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (PCCA Christian Care)
- COPCA (Catholic Office for the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults)
- Community Action Southwark
- ContinYou
- Coram
- Daycare Trust
- DFW Adoption
- Family Action
- Families for Children
- Families Need Fathers
- Family Care
- Family Friends in Windsor and Maidenhead
- Family Links
- Family Rights Group
- Fatherhood Institute
- Fegans Child and Family Care
- Forest YMCA of East London
- Fostering Network
- Friends United Network
- Fun in Action for Children
- Grandparents' Association
- Grandparents Plus
- Hamlet Centre
- Home Start - Leeds
- Home-Start UK
- Howgill Family Centre
- Huddleston Centre
- Isle of Man Adoption Service (MANX)
- Manchester Jewish Federation (The Fed)
- Mill Grove
- National Association of Child Contact Centres
- National Childminding Association
- National Children's Centre
- National Playbus Association
- National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)
- Norfolk & Norwich Families House
- Norwood
- NSPCC
- Nugent Care
- One Parent Families
- Gingerbread
- Ormiston Children and Families Trust
- Parenting UK Parents for Children
- Partnership for Young London
- Peterborough Diocesan Family Care
- Place to Be
- Playgroup Network
- Positive Parenting and Children (PPC)
- Prison Reform Trust
- Rainbow Trust Children's Charity
- Refugee Council
- Royal Navy & Royal Marine Children's Fund
- School-Home Support
- Shaftesbury Young People
- SOHO Family Centre
- South London Tamil Welfare Group
- Southwark Diocesan Welcare Service Trust
- Springboard Family Project
- Spurgeons
- St. John's Family Resource Unit
- St. Michael's Fellowship
- St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP)
- Talbot House
- The National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries
- The Salvation Army Social Work Department Child &
- The Together Trust
- Tyne & Wear Autistic Society
- Valley House Association
- Voice
- Volunteer Reading Help
- Who Cares? Trust
- Yoga4

# Mission

To create a fairer world for children, young people and families by championing the voluntary organisations which work on their behalf.



## Children England

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**Children  
England**  
Charities working for  
children and families